

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to original filing on October 12, 2006. Claims (12-20) are pending.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). This application is a 371 of PCT/IB05/51159 filed on 4/08/2005 and further has foreign priority claim to EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 04101569 filed on 4/16/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 12 -20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salloum Salazar et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0097738 and Salazar hereinafter) in view of Matsuzaki et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0093523 and Matsuzaki hereinafter).

3. As to claim 12, Salazar teaches a **device for managing an authorized domain, comprising: means for providing a map** (i.e., topology map) **of the authorized domain**, (i.e., teaches if the Bus Manager is the status manager, it has direct access to the topology map [par. 10]), **said map including an identifier area for containing identifiers corresponding to other devices** (i.e., ... teaches assigning physical IDs to each device [par. 41]), **and at least one property area for containing properties of the identifiers** (i.e., ...teaches a self ID packet containing the ID [par. 44]), **said at least one property area being mapped on the identifier area such that each individual property of said properties is mapped to an individual one of said identifiers, and said properties being arranged to provide information about updates** [par. 41; par. 44];

means for obtaining map contents of another device for managing the authorized domain (i.e., ... teaches exchanging topology information to neighboring devices [par. 41]);

said at least one property area (i.e., packet) including two property areas for containing two different types of properties (i.e., payload data) comprised in said properties (i.e., ... teaches packet structure containing payload data [par. 53], one of said two property areas being a state area for containing states and the other one being a sequence number area for containing sequence numbers (i.e., ... teaches FMT Format ID The type of data in the data block. ... teaches values have been defined for MPEG-2, DVCR, and so on. FDF Format Dependent Field The meaning of this field depends on the FMT field [par. 53]),

wherein each one of said states is one of a set of at least two different types of states comprising a state of added and a state of removed (i.e., ... teaches TC Transaction Code Indicating the type of transaction [par 55] ... further teaches It is possible to add and remove devices [par. 35]), where each state is shiftable between said different types of states (i.e., ... teaches a automatic reset [par. 35]), and wherein each sequence number represents a number of shifts of an associated state from at least one of said different types of states to at least another one of said different types of states (i.e., ... teaches after a reset (i.e., state shift) the device reconfigure themselves [par. 35]).

However Salazar does not teaches:

and means for comparing the contents of the map with said map contents of said another device, and for determining, on basis of the comparison, whether to perform any updates of the map,

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Salazar as introduced by Matsuzaki. Matsuzaki discloses:

comparing the contents of the map with said map contents of said another authorized domain manager (for purpose of comparing content between managers Matsuzaki provides for exchange between managing servers for comparison of device credentials [par. 314]);

and determining, on basis of the comparison, whether to perform any updates of the map (for purpose of make a update determination based on the comparison Matsuzaki provides for registration updates of device credential information resultant of a comparison of a set of conditions [par. 358])

Therefore, given the teachings of Matsuzaki, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Salazar by employing the well known feature of comparing content of neighboring authorization server and making a decision base on comparison values disclosed above by Matsuzaki, for which distributed authorization management will be enhanced (par. 314).

4. As to claim 13, Salazar teaches a **device according where said means for obtaining map contents includes means for directly exchanging map contents**

with said another device (i.e., ... teaches exchanging speed capability and topology information to neighboring devices [par. 41]).

5. As to claim 14, Salazar teaches a **device according where said means for obtaining map contents includes means for reading a separate storage means** (i.e., ... teaches a device with status reading modules 511-514 can simply read this information from the asynchronous transmissions (i.e. **storage means**) which are broadcasted periodically [par. 63]).

6. As to claim 15, Salazar teaches a **device according where said means for obtaining map contents is arranged for obtaining said map contents from a map handling device of the authorized domain** (i.e., ... teaches Status Manager, which is responsible for distributing status information to the devices [par 58] ... teaches information containing topology information [abstract]).

7. As to claim 16, the system disclosed by Salazar shows substantial features of the claimed invention (discussed in the paragraphs above), it fails to disclose;

A device further comprising means for determining that property data regarding an identifier of the map of said another device should be added to the own map at fulfillment of at least one condition of a set of conditions including at least the condition of the identifier missing in the map and the combined condition of the identifier existing in the map and a comparison

value , which assures that the property data regarding the identifier was last acted upon in the map of said another device, said comparison value being determined by a comparison of at least one property of said properties in the map with the corresponding property of the map of said another device.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Salazar as introduced by Matsuzaki. Matsuzaki discloses:

A device further comprising means for determining that property data regarding an identifier of the map of said another device should be added to the own map at fulfillment of at least one condition of a set of conditions including at least the condition of the identifier missing in the map and the combined condition of the identifier existing in the map and a comparison value (for purpose of updating of information based on the compliance of condition Matsuzaki provides for updating to occur upon comparatively good conditions [par. 495]), which assures that the property data regarding the identifier was last acted upon in the map of said another device, said comparison value being determined by a comparison of at least one property of said properties in the map with the corresponding property of the map of said another device (for purpose of determine comparison criteria Matsuzaki provides for comparison credential indicative of the device [par.314]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Matsuzaki, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Salazar by employing the well known feature of content comparison disclosed above by Matsuzaki, for which distributed authorization management will be enhanced (par. 314).

8. As to claim 17, Salazar teaches a **device where said at least one property of said properties in the map comprises the sequence number, and, in case of equal sequence numbers, further comprises the state, wherein at least said state of added and said state of removed are represented by different values** (i.e., ... teaches TC Transaction Code Indicating the type of transaction [par 55] ... further teaches It is possible to add and remove devices [par. 35]);

9. As to claim 18, Salazar teaches a **system comprising: a plurality of devices interconnectable by means of a network and being arranged as an authorized domain** (i.e., ... teaches devices 101-106 are interconnected via an IEEE 1394 bus [par. 57]), **wherein at least two of said plurality of devices are acting as authorized domain managers** (abstract/par. 57);

each authorized domain manager including a device according claim 12.
[par. 57]

10. As to claim 19, Salazar teaches a **method for managing an authorized domain including a plurality of devices** [fig. 1], wherein at least two devices of said plurality of devices act as authorized domain managers (i.e., ... teaches a cycle manager and bus manager [par. 43]), **said method comprising: providing each authorized domain manager with a capability of at least managing adding devices to and removing devices from the authorized domain** (i.e., .. teaching device adding and removing capability [par. 35]);

arranging a map comprising an identifier area and at least one property area; storing identifiers corresponding to other devices in the identifier area; storing properties of the identifiers in said at least one property area [par 38];

mapping said at least one property area on said identifier area, such that each individual property of said properties is mapped to an individual one of said identifiers [fig. 1];

arranging said properties so as to provide information about updates thereof (i.e., ... teaches a broadcast transmission of update and status information [par. 12]);

obtaining map contents of another authorized domain manager managing the same authorised domain (i.e.,. ... teaches exchanging topology information to neighboring devices [par. 41]);

However Salazar does not teaches:

comparing the contents of the map with said map contents of said another authorized domain manager;

and determining, on basis of the comparison, whether to perform any updates of the map, wherein the determining includes determining that property data regarding an identifier of the map of said another authorized domain manager should be added to the map at fulfilment of at least one condition of a set of conditions comprising at least the condition of the identifier missing in the map and the combined condition of the identifier existing in the map and a comparison value, which assures that the property data regarding the identifier was last acted upon in the map of said another authorized domain manager;

and determining said comparison value by a comparison of at least one property of said properties in the map with the corresponding property of the map of said another device.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Salazar as introduced by Matsuzaki. Matsuzaki discloses:

comparing the contents of the map with said map contents of said another authorized domain manager (for purpose of comparing content between managers Matsuzaki provides for exchange between managing servers for comparison of device credentials [par. 314]);

and determining, on basis of the comparison, whether to perform any updates of the map (for purpose of make a update determination based on the comparison Matsuzaki provides for registration updates of device credential information resultant of a comparison of a set of conditions [par. 358]), **where the determining includes determining that property data regarding an identifier of the map of said another authorized domain manager should be added to the map at fulfilment of at least one condition of a set of conditions comprising at least the condition of the identifier missing in the map and the combined condition of the identifier existing in the map and a comparison value, which assures that the property data regarding the identifier was last acted upon in the map of said another authorized domain manager** (for purpose of updating of information based on the compliance of condition Matsuzaki provides for updating to occur upon comparatively good conditions [par. 495]);

and determining said comparison value by a comparison of at least one property of said properties in the map with the corresponding property of the map of said another device (for purpose of determine comparison criteria Matsuzaki provides for comparison credential indicative of the device [par.314]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Matsuzaki, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Salazar by employing the well known feature of comparing content of neighboring authorization server and making a decision base on comparison values

disclosed above by Matsuzaki, for which distributed authorization management will be enhanced (par. 314).

11. As to claim 20, Salazar teaches a **computer program product, directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for causing the computer to act as an authorized domain manager, being capable of at least managing adding devices to and removing devices from an authorized domain, and for causing the computer to perform:**

providing each authorized domain manager with a capability of at least managing adding devices to and removing devices from the authorized domain (i.e., ... teaches TC Transaction Code Indicating the type of transaction [par 55] ... further teaches It is possible to add and remove devices [par. 35]);

arranging a map comprising an identifier area and at least one property area [fig. 1];

storing identifiers corresponding to other devices in the identifier area, storing properties of the identifiers in said at least one property area[par. 41];

mapping said at least one property area on said identifier area, such that each individual property of said properties is mapped to an individual one of said identifiers [par. 41];

arranging said properties so as to provide information about updates thereof (i.e., ... teaches a broadcast transmission of update and status information [par. 12]);

obtaining map contents of another authorized domain manager managing the same authorised domain (i.e., ... teaches exchanging topology information to neighboring devices [par. 41]);

However Salazar does not teaches:

comparing the contents of the own map with said map contents of said another Authorized Domain Manager;

and determining, on basis of the comparison, whether to perform any updates of the map, wherein the determining includes determining that property data regarding an identifier of the map of said another authorized domain manager should be added to the i map at fulfilment of at least one condition of a set of conditions comprising at least the condition of the identifier missing in the map and the combined condition of the identifier existing in the map and a comparison value, which assures that the property data regarding the identifier was last acted upon in the map of said another authorized domain manager;

and determining said comparison value by a comparison of at least one property of said properties in the map with the corresponding property of the map of said another device.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Salazar as introduced by Matsuzaki. Matsuzaki discloses:

; comparing the contents of the map with said map contents of said another authorized domain manager (for purpose of comparing content between managers Matsuzaki provides for exchange between managing servers for comparison of device credentials [par. 314]);

and determining, on basis of the comparison, whether to perform any updates of the map (for purpose of make a update determination based on the comparison Matsuzaki provides for registration updates of device credential information resultant of a comparison of a set of conditions [par. 358]), **where the determining includes determining that property data regarding an identifier of the map of said another authorized domain manager should be added to the map at fulfilment of at least one condition of a set of conditions comprising at least the condition of the identifier missing in the map and the combined condition of the identifier existing in the map and a comparison value, which assures that the property data regarding the identifier was last acted upon in the map of said another authorized domain manager** (for purpose of updating of information based on the compliance of condition Matsuzaki provides for updating to occur upon comparatively good conditions [par. 495]);

and determining said comparison value by a comparison of at least one property of said properties in the map with the corresponding property of the map of said another device (for purpose of determine comparison criteria Matsuzaki provides for comparison credential indicative of the device [par.314]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Matsuzaki, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Salazar by employing the well known feature of comparing content of neighboring authorization server and making a decision base on comparison values disclosed above by Matsuzaki, for which distributed authorization management will be enhanced (par. 314).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN WRIGHT whose telephone number is (571)270-3826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AYAZ Sheikh can be reached on (571)272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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